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## FEBRUARY MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, Feb. 12, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President in the chair.

Donations were announced from the Department of State of the United States; the American Philosophical Society; the City of Boston; the Chicago Historical Society; the Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society; Harvard College; Oberlausitzischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Görlitz; the publishers of the "Farmer and Gardener;" Rev. Cyrus A. Bartol, D.D.; James Lenox, Esq.; Rev. Elias Nason; Rev. William S. Perry; Stephen Randall, Esq.; C. J. Stillé, Esq.; Rev. E. M. Stone; John W. Wallace, Esq.; and from Messrs. Brigham, Brooks (W. G.), Deane, Lamson, Livermore, Loring, Paige, Robbins (C.), Sibley, Tudor, Webb, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The President, in announcing the death of Hon. Nathan Hale, remarked as follows:—

We have not failed to observe, gentlemen, within a few days past, the announcement of the death of our respected associate, the Hon. NATHAN HALE. He was the third in the order of seniority on the list of our Resident Members; his election dating back to the 27th of January, 1820. He was a member of our Standing Committee for twelve successive years, from 1824 to 1836; and, though his growing infirmities had long prevented his attendance at our meetings, we cannot permit his name to disappear from our rolls without some just recognition

of his numerous and important services to the community in which he lived.

Few men, indeed, of our day and generation, have combined more remarkably than Mr. Hale a life of active practical usefulness with that of a laborious writer and publisher. If he had left no record but that of the public duties which he has discharged, the public improvements which he has promoted, the public enterprises with whose rise and progress he has been personally and prominently connected, he would have earned no common tribute from those who had witnessed his career. The leading and most efficient part which he took in the establishment of our New-England railroad system, and in the introduction of pure water into our own city, would alone have been enough to secure him the grateful remembrance of us all. Add, now, the services which he repeatedly rendered in both branches of our State Legislature, and in the Conventions for the Amendment of the Constitution of Massachusetts in 1820 and in 1853, and little more would seem to be required to complete the record of an eminently useful and valuable life.

Yet these, we all know, were only the incidents and episodes to the main current of his career. It was as an intelligent, accomplished, and devoted journalist that he has won his chief title to the respect and gratitude of our community. It may be said, without disparagement to any one, living or dead, that, for a long series of years, the paper edited by Nathan Hale was second to none in our whole land for exact information, for just criticism, for clear and candid exposition, for able and thorough discussion, and for the most exemplary abstinence from every thing which could offend the taste or wound the feelings of any class of its readers. Whatever differences of opinion may at any time have been entertained as to its peculiar political views, it was everywhere welcomed for the ability, the precision, and the purity which were daily reflected into its columns from the pure, able, and accurate mind of its untiring editor. It is no

small thing in these days to have left such an example of a great journalist, who never perverted the mighty influence of the press to any unworthy or sinister purpose.

Nor can we forget, on this occasion, the peculiar value of these editorial labors of our departed friend to the cause of History, in which we are associated. I hazard little in saying, that even those who might have been most disposed, whether reasonably or unreasonably, to look to the columns of other papers for the very latest version of the news of the day or for the earliest phase of some still doubtful story, would now, if they were seeking for the most faithful account of any event or any question within the thirty or forty years of Mr. Hale's active editorship, be found consulting nothing more eagerly or more confidently than a file of the Boston "Daily Advertiser." Indeed, the history of that period could hardly be written without the aid of such a file.

But there are others among us more competent than myself to speak of the public services, and of the private and social virtues, of our deceased friend; and it only remains for me to fulfil the instructions of our Standing Committee by submitting the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That, in the death of the Hon. NATHAN HALE, this Society has lost an esteemed and respected associate, whose long and faithful labors as the editor of a leading journal, and whose varied and valuable services in the cause of more than one of our most important public improvements, cannot fail of being held in grateful remembrance by the whole community in which he lived.

*Resolved*, That the President be requested to appoint one of our number to prepare a Memoir of Mr. Hale for our next volume of Proceedings.

Hon. EDWARD EVERETT, on seconding the resolutions, spoke as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT,—I hope I do not transgress the bounds of delicacy in echoing the well-deserved tribute which you have

paid to our departed associate and friend ; but, if the near relation in which I stood to him prevents my speaking with impartiality, it enables me to speak at least with an intimate knowledge of his great worth. It is with the confidence founded on that knowledge, that I do not scruple to pronounce him, not only one of the best men I ever knew, but one of the persons possessed of the greatest amount of valuable knowledge, endowed with the largest capacity for usefulness, and yet covered with such a thick veil of modesty, that there were few individuals whom a casual observer, unacquainted with his character, would have been more likely to pass unobserved.

You have spoken, sir, with such discriminating justice of the twofold relation of editor and engineer, in which he stood to the community, as to leave me very little to say. It is hard to decide in which character his services were the most valuable. He assumed the management of the Boston "Daily Advertiser" in 1814, shortly after the commencement of its publication. He was its sole conductor for fifteen or twenty years ; its responsible editor for as many more ; and, by all acknowledgment, he brought to it a variety and accuracy of information, a solidity of judgment, a fidelity to principle and to his friends, a moderation toward opponents, and a sacred regard to truth, which cannot be too highly praised. It was said of the "Daily Advertiser" by a distinguished contemporary journalist, the founder and editor of the Boston "Courier," that the "Advertiser" was the first journal which systematically introduced the editorial discussion of political topics, — that branch of journalism having been before left to correspondents ; the most celebrated of whom are the authors of the "Federalist" and of "Junius." I have not the means of verifying the accuracy of this remark : but certain it is, that the columns of the "Daily Advertiser," for forty years, contained, as a standing feature, an editorial comment on passing affairs at home and abroad ; and not less so, that such a comment, prepared as it was by Mr. Hale, in a

manner to exercise a marked influence on public opinion, could be the achievement of no ordinary mind.

Besides natural talent of a high order, and the advantage of a liberal education at a respectable seminary (Williams College), Mr. Hale provided himself with aids in the discharge of his editorial duties, not as common then as now. He imported the leading European journals, English, French, and German. I have heard it said that his file of the London "Times" was the only one, at that time, to be found in any printing-office in Boston. His shelves were well supplied with books of reference in contemporaneous history, in geography, and statistics; and he was particularly curious in the collection of maps. Every thing falling within these departments was habitually discussed by him with more than common fulness and accuracy.

It was not long before the "Advertiser," as conducted by him, acquired the name of the "Respectable Daily." He regarded this as a title of honor. He wished no higher praise than to conduct a journal that deserved and enjoyed the respect of an enlightened community. Even when this epithet was employed in ridicule and derision, he did not heed the reproach. He was willing to suffer in his reputation for enterprise, by abstaining from the hasty dissemination of flying rumors as if they were matters of ascertained intelligence; and to give up the credit for smartness, which was to be earned by the reckless assertion of doubtful facts, by the bold utterance of crude opinions, or by wanton attacks on private character.

Among his rules of journalism, one was to present every kind of intelligence in the most authentic form. The Congressional or Executive Report, the Original Letter, the important article from a European journal, if not prevented by its length or some specific objection, he gave entire as he found it. He did not garble it, nor subject it to editorial manipulation, in order to make the work of others pass for his own.

He reserved the editorial columns and the editorial type

exclusively for articles written by himself, or by those who at any time were regularly associated with him in the conduct of the paper ; and never accepted pecuniary compensation, except for what appeared in the recognized form of an advertisement.

He had great aptitude for mechanical contrivance of every kind. I am under the impression, that he first conceived the idea of executing geographical maps on type-metal, setting up the names in common type, and occasionally employing these maps in his paper for the illustration of the intelligence contained in its columns. A manual of geography, published by him in middle life, was, I believe, the first volume illustrated by maps of this kind. He was one of the first journalists, if not the very first, who employed the power-press ; and, at one time, he engaged somewhat extensively in the printing of books. The twelve volumes of Mr. Sparks's " Diplomatic Correspondence of the Revolution " were issued from his power-presses.

He was at all times peculiarly fond of geographical studies. He devoted his leisure hours — if, in such a life, there could be any thing that deserved the name of a leisure hour — to the preparation of a map of New England, which still retains a standard character. It was not compiled from older maps, but laboriously constructed from original materials, and calculations and measurements made by himself. In the prosecution of his geographical studies, he became possessed of a very valuable collection of original maps and plans of military positions held in the old French and Revolutionary wars ; most of which are manuscripts, drawn at the time by officers in the British army.

Although Mr. Hale's predominant tastes were in the direction of the mathematics pure and applied, he by no means confined himself to them. His reading was wide and various. He had a working knowledge of French and German ; and kept up, perhaps extended, the knowledge of the ancient classics which he brought from college. He had a valuable private library, and was well acquainted with its contents. He wrote some-

what slowly and laboriously, but without stiffness, and in a style of pure sterling English, with great precision of thought, and clearness of expression. Considering that most of his writing was for the columns of a newspaper, his style is remarkably free from the faults to which that kind of composition is most exposed, — looseness, over-statement, and appeal to “Buncombe.” As far as the tone and spirit of his writings are concerned, it may be said of him, quite as truly as of the author of whom the remark was originally made, that in all his writings, however voluminous in the aggregate, there was —

“Not one immoral, one corrupting thought;  
One line which, dying, he could wish to blot.”

With such stores of varied information, especially in reference to our politics, and with such weight of character, Mr. Hale would seem to have been qualified for eminence as a public speaker. But neither his taste nor temperament lay in that direction. There was, in conversation, even a hesitancy in his utterance. It is therefore the more remarkable, that whenever on occasions of business or ceremony, or in the public bodies of which he was a member, he was called upon to express himself, he did it with entire self-possession, dignity, and ease. He had one habit as a public speaker which might be introduced with advantage in all our public assemblies: he never rose to speak without having something to say worth listening to; and, when he had said it, he sat down.

It would seem that the duties of an editor, as Mr. Hale performed them, would be enough to occupy all the time even of the most laborious and active man; but he united with them those of a most distinguished and successful engineer. From the moment the railroad system began to be established successfully in England, Mr. Hale gave much attention to its consideration. Having mastered its details as a problem in engineering, he forthwith began to devote what the incredulous considered an undue portion of his columns to the discussion of



its economical relations. In a word, the feasibility and importance of railroads for this country were diligently and forcibly, and with every variety of illustration, "written up" by him; and the result is the net-work that covers the land. He was the chairman and working member of the first Board of Commissioners for Internal Improvement, by whom the principal railroad-lines in this State were surveyed. He was the first President of the Worcester Railroad, — the line on which the first locomotive-engine was run; and he assumed the effective responsibility for all the calculations, estimates, and initiatory surveys, of what was then deemed an experimental work. No sooner had he conducted it to a triumphant result, than he threw himself with the same self-sacrificing zeal upon the project for supplying Boston with pure water; and never shall I forget the light that beamed from his pensive eye, and the flush that spread over his thoughtful countenance, when, at the close of the memorable day on which the completion of that work was celebrated, he saw the noble jet of water from Long Pond, a distance of eighteen miles, spouting up to the clouds from the centre of Boston Common.

In a modest and appropriate obituary notice of Mr. Hale which appeared in the "Daily Advertiser" the morning after his decease, written after that event at half-past eleven o'clock of the night before, it is stated that these and other similar labors, performed by Mr. Hale, were "disinterested." There is an undesigned sarcasm in this expression, which this is not the place, nor I the person, to unfold. Labors such as those which in the Old World have raised the Arkwrights, the Stephensons, the Brunels, to fortune, — some of them to princely fortune, — had no such result for him. Not to speak of the Boston Water-works, and the benefits they have conferred on the community, cheaply purchased at the millions they have cost (as they would have been had those millions been doubled), his connection with the railroad system of the United States, of which the annual

benefit to the country cannot be estimated at less than one hundred millions of dollars, and of which, more than any other individual, he is entitled to be called the Father, left him a poorer man than it found him.

And this leads me to a closing remark on the moral qualities of his character. I have already said that he was one of the very best men I ever knew. In an acquaintance commencing at the Academy at Exeter in 1807, and in a relation as intimate as can be without the cement of blood, I never saw in him the slightest trace of any of the sins which do most easily beset us, — of selfishness, avarice, vanity, indolence, affectation, arrogance: it would be an insult to his memory to add dishonesty or corruption to the list. He was the soul of justice, probity, and honor. A deep sense of religious obligation gave tone and steadiness to his moral principle; and, if he had not been human, I should have been almost ready to pronounce him faultless.

But he had his faults. The ancient philosophers placed moral perfection in the golden mean, equally removed from excess on either side. Mr. Hale carried the noblest virtue of which our frail natures are capable — disinterestedness — to an extreme which interfered with his own health, comfort, and prosperity; and going beyond the Scripture rule, which it is never safe to do, he loved his neighbor better than himself.

The resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

The President subsequently appointed Dr. Lothrop to prepare a Memoir of Mr. Hale.

The President laid on the table a copy of Mr. Savage's "Genealogical Dictionary," sumptuously bound, a gift to the library from Mr. Tudor; for which the President was requested to convey the thanks of the Society to Mr. Tudor.

Count Agénor de Gasparin of Switzerland was elected an Honorary Member, Right Rev. George Burgess, Bishop of Maine, and George W. Green, Esq., of New York, Corresponding Members, and Francis E. Parker, Esq., and Mr. William H. Whitmore, of Boston, Resident Members, of the Society.

Messrs. Loring, Sturgis, and Washburn were appointed a Committee with full powers to advise with the Treasurer in regard to the funds of the Society, and to make any investment of the same which they may deem advisable. The President was added to this Committee.

The Treasurer submitted the following report:—

The Society, on the 13th of November, 1862, *voted*, That the Treasurer, under the direction of the Standing Committee, be authorized to sell the share of the Massachusetts Cotton Mills owned by the Society, and, with the extra dividend and the dividend due, invest the proceeds in the building now owned by the Society.

This share of the Cotton Mills was received, in part, as a legacy to the Society, from their late member, Nathaniel I. Bowditch, Esq., of one thousand dollars; the balance being two hundred dollars, which was invested in the building. The Standing Committee having authorized, by vote, the sale of this share, I have sold it. The share brought eleven hundred and fifty dollars; which, with the extra dividend of two hundred dollars and the regular dividend of fifty dollars, made the sum of fourteen hundred dollars; which has been invested as directed. This makes the sum of sixteen hundred dollars which has been received from Mr. Bowditch's legacy of one thousand, besides the regular dividends.

RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, *Treasurer*.

The President called attention to a communication in the January number of the "Historical Magazine," signed with the initials of the name of our Corresponding Member, George H. Moore, Esq.; which seemed to leave little doubt that the real name of the translator of Chastellux's "Travels" was John Kent; and that the name of *Grieve* (as given by Ebeling in the copy of Chastellux in the Harvard-college Library) was an *alias*, assumed for purposes of secrecy.

The President added, that he had received a letter from Mr. Moore within a few hours past, which concluded with the following passage:—

"I have also recently met with a notice of New England and Morton's 'New-England Memorial,' which may interest you, if, indeed, you have not seen it before. The contemporary comparison of Old and New England in 1672 strikes me as very significant. The passage occurs in a letter of John Collins, a mathematician of some celebrity in his day, who was officially connected with the Council of Plantations at that time. Writing to Dr. Beale, Aug. 20, 1672, he says, —

"'Upon your mentioning of New England, I have this to say. I have been informed that there hath been an excellent map of New England some years since sent over to his Majesty; but now it is not, upon diligent inquiry, to be found. There is a 4to book printed in New England, entitled "New-England's Memorial," by William Morton; being a history or journal of the settlement and transactions in that colony. Your judgment about the civil conversation of New, and loose of Old England, demands remark. Their rigor in requiring real grace in church-members, and our looseness in a temporizing Arminianism to obtain preferment, I take to be contrary to the doctrine of the Church of England. I believe I have spent as much time to satisfy myself thoroughly in those controversies as I have done in the mathematics, and could wish all controversies stated in the method of the [ ] proposal about trade.'" — *Letters of Scientific Men*, i. 202.

Dr. USHER PARSONS, Corresponding Member, exhibited a large collection of curious relics of the Indians of Rhode Island, recently exhumed near the seashore, on ground which formerly belonged to the Sachem Ninigret.

Mr. FOLSOM reported a list of necessary books of reference for the Society's library; and mentioned that one of our associates had placed at his disposal the sum of fifty dollars, to be added to the amount which the Standing Committee might appropriate to the purchase of the books.

The President said he had brought for exhibition to the Society one of the old paper-notes of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, issued on the 10th of December, 1690.

This was the first issue of paper-money in Massachusetts, and, as he believed, in America. Sir William Phips had arrived in Boston only a few weeks before, bringing back his troops most unexpectedly, after an unsuccessful expedition against Canada. The Government was entirely unprepared for the return of the forces; and the soldiers, we are told, were upon the point of a mutiny, for want of their wages. It was utterly impossible to raise, in a few days, the amount which was necessary. "The extreme difficulty to which the Government was reduced, was the occasion," says Hutchinson, "of the first bills of credit ever issued in the Colonies as a substitute in the place of money."

Dr. Felt, in his "History of Massachusetts Currency," gives an account of the proceeding, together with a description of one of the notes. We learn also, that, as early as the 23d of October of the following year, the General Court ordered a committee to burn up all the bills collected by the Treasurer; and



*Edgely*

N<sup>o</sup>. (4980) 5<sup>s</sup>

THIS Indented bill of Five shillings.  
due from the Massachusetts Colony to:  
the Possessor shall be in value equal to:  
money & shall be accordingly accepted:  
by the Treasurer & receivers subordinate;  
to him in all publick payments and for:  
any Stock at any time in the Treasury:  
Boston in New-England December:  
the 10<sup>th</sup>. 1690; By Order of y<sup>e</sup> Generall  
Court.



*Come over & Rel. us.*

SIGLVM: GVB; & SOC<sup>s</sup>  
DE: MATTACHVSETS:  
BAY: IN: NOV: ANGL: 3

*John Phillip*

*Adam Winthrop*

*Renn Townsend*

} Com<sup>tee</sup>;



Warrant  
J<sup>m</sup> Taylor Treas<sup>r</sup> Of<sup>r</sup>  
Province of the Massachusetts Bay.

N<sup>o</sup> 2.

so effectually was this done, that Dr: Felt adds, "Curiosity has preserved no residuum of the bills, as the repository of the Royal Artillery at Woolwich has of the Bank-of-England notes, in a case of glass, for the examination of visitors."

This remark would lead us to suppose that the notes were now very rare, and that this specimen might be almost unique. The production of it on this occasion, however, might lead to the discovery of others.

It is written with a pen, not engraved; and the seal of the Province is very inartistically drawn. One might almost suppose it to have been a mere draught of the design for the notes, rather than one of the notes themselves. But it is indented and signed and countersigned. The signatures are evidently original; and the bill is numbered 4980 on the face, and No. 62 on the back.

Perhaps these notes may be less rare than has been imagined; but, as Dr. Felt stated that he himself had never seen one, this may by chance be the only surviving ancestor of the growing family of American paper-money.

Mr. C. ROBBINS communicated a Memoir of the late Hon. William Appleton, which he had prepared in compliance with a vote of the Society.



M E M O I R  
OF  
H O N. W I L L I A M A P P L E T O N.

BY REV. CHANDLER, ROBBINS, D.D.

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IN the year 1635, SAMUEL APPLETON came from Little Waldingfield, in Suffolk, Eng., with his family, and settled in Ipswich. Descended from an ancestry of good repute in his native country, he became the progenitor of a highly respected race in the land of his adoption. The beautiful Memorial of him published in Boston in 1850 renders it superfluous to renew the familiar account of his lineage. Whoever will refer to that volume, will find that in every period, from that of his remotest known ancestor, John Appulton of Great Waldingfield, who died in 1414, the family name has never failed to be worthily represented. Not only the commemorative tributes of this Society, but the annals of our State and National legislatures, the records of various institutions of learning, charity, and religion, the public eulogies and private encomiums of the citizens of Boston, and even the commercial and industrial prosperity of New England, bear testimony to the honorable manner in which it has been sustained in the thirteenth generation.



WILLIAM APPLETON.

Eng<sup>d</sup> by H Wright Smith, from a Photograph by Whipple.  
Boston, 1863.

The instances must be very rare, in which, in a single city, four individuals of one kindred and name, and in the same grade of natural descent, have contemporaneously made their own way from humble beginnings to such high distinction in the same calling as was lately attained by the three brothers, Samuel, Nathan, and Ebenezer Appleton,\* and their cousin William,—a sketch of whose life we are about to give. They were so intimately and pleasantly associated in life, and their images are naturally so grouped together in our remembrance, that we could not speak particularly of one till we had first made respectful mention of the rest.

William Appleton was born in the North Parish of Brookfield, Mass., Nov. 16, 1786. His father, Rev. Joseph Appleton, was born in Ipswich in 1751; graduated at Brown University in 1772; was ordained minister of the Second Church in Brookfield, now the First Congregational Church in North Brookfield, in 1776; and died in July, 1795.† He was a man of respectable abilities, approved scholarship, and exemplary Christian character.

His mother was Mary, daughter of Jacob Hook, a gentleman farmer of Kingston, N.H., whose estate was large

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\* Ebenezer Appleton died in April, 1833, at the age of forty-eight. He was a man of more than ordinary talents, and of considerable literary taste and culture, genial in his disposition, and popular in his manners.

† The only work ever published by him was a controversial theological pamphlet of thirty pages. There is an elegant monument to him in the churchyard of North Brookfield, with suitable inscriptions, erected by his son, the subject of this Memoir.

Among the last of Hon. William Appleton's benefactions was the contribution of five thousand dollars to the First Congregational Society of North Brookfield, for the purchase of a library for the use of the minister. It is called the Appleton Library.

We are indebted for these facts to Rev. C. Cushing, the present pastor of the church in North Brookfield.

for that place and period. At the death of her husband, who bequeathed to her a small property and the sole charge of five young children,—two sons and three daughters,—she removed to her native place, and occupied a farm of moderate value, which she had inherited from her father. In the year 1798, she was married to Major Daniel Gould, of Lyndeborough, N.H.; and, with her children, took up her abode in that town. Many of the traits of her character bore a striking resemblance to those which afterwards appeared in her son. She had a strong mind, a quick apprehension, a sound judgment, and an unusual capacity for business. Although of feeble health, she was energetic and persevering. Her conversation was often playful and witty, and occasionally seasoned with a spice of satire: though all these qualities were duly held in check; for she was a Christian, both by profession and practice. Her son has recorded his deep sense of obligation to her for having shaped and controlled his character. In a brief notice of her life, written on the day of her death, he says, “From the time my father died, she was very particular in giving her children religious instruction, and often prayed with them in her chamber. I have lost in her, not only the faithful guardian of my infancy, but the discreet monitor of my youth, and counsellor of my maturity.”

She was evidently a fine specimen of the best class of New-England mothers; to whom, more than to any other source, are to be traced those sound principles, virtuous habits, and practical qualities, by means of which their children have attained both material pros-

perity and a fair moral fame. Her death took place at Mount Vernon, N.H., June 25, 1842, in her eighty-seventh year, after she had long enjoyed the fruit of her maternal fidelity in witnessing the successful career of her son.

In tracing that career, as well as in estimating Mr. Appleton's character, we have been permitted to avail ourselves of a private diary, which he had kept, with occasional interruptions, during a period of nearly fifty years. It fills seven manuscript volumes, evidently written without the slightest reference to posthumous use. It consists of very brief and simple notes of incidents, especially interesting to the writer, connected with his family, his business, the state of his health, and his religious experience and duties: to which are occasionally added reminiscences of early life; impressions of men; obituary sketches of his friends; and views, both retrospective and prospective, of commercial, financial, and industrial affairs. Although intended exclusively for his own perusal, there is nothing in this journal which would not bear general inspection. On the contrary, it exhibits the writer, off his guard and in his interior life, in a highly creditable and amiable light. It reveals such conscientiousness, such an humble estimate of himself, such a true and lively affection for his family and friends, such a constant conflict with the love of the world and the desire for riches, and such gratitude and submission to Providence, as are worthy of respect and sympathy.

In using this diary, it will be our endeavor not to violate the generous confidence of the living, nor the

delicate reserve which is due to the private papers of the dead. No further reference will be made to it than may be necessary to such a truthful representation of his character as alone would be sanctioned by himself, or conducive to those moral and Christian ends which were evidently near to his heart, and to which, we are persuaded, he would desire, above all things, that his biography should be subservient.

He was sent to school at an early age, first at New Ipswich, and afterwards successively at Francestown and Tyngsborough. In 1801, he made his first trial of business as a clerk in a store at Temple, N.H., kept by Mr. Artemas Wheeler. His capacity and good conduct made such a favorable impression upon his employer, that, at the age of nineteen, he took him into partnership. At the expiration of a year, having found that a country store afforded a too limited field for his abilities and ambition, he sold his stock, and interest in the firm; and with the small property which he had inherited, together with what he had earned, came to Boston. In alluding to this period, he was scrupulously careful not to appropriate the remark, intended to be complimentary, which was sometimes applied to him, as it has been to so many other of our wealthy citizens, — that he came from his country home with nothing but “a small bundle in his hand, and a few cents in his pocket.” The sum which he actually brought was small enough, in contrast with what he afterwards accumulated, to accredit his talents for business; and the very fact that a portion of it had been already saved, and the remainder earned, before his arrival, throws back upon his youth the merit

of those same qualities which were afterwards so conspicuously exemplified in his maturity.

The following memoranda, relating to the early stages of his business-life, are copied from his journal :—

“ After I came to Boston, I resided for a short time with How and Spear, who kept a West-India goods store. In 1807, I went into business with Mr. N. Giddings. We kept at the corner of India Street and Central Street, — the only store then occupied in the street. (?) Our business was the buying and selling of West-India goods and crockery-ware. We dissolved our connection in the autumn of 1809. Then, considering myself worth about four thousand dollars, I bought the ship ‘Triumphant,’ at Salem, in connection with Upham, Gassett, and Co., for five thousand dollars, and went with her to Fayal, where I had her put under Portuguese colors, and despatched her to Liverpool; I taking passage with Mr. and Mrs. Bowdoin in another ship. On my arrival at Liverpool, I found my ship had been captured by a French privateer: but she was fortunately retaken a few weeks after, and brought to Plymouth; whither I went to take charge of my property. I remained in England till July; when I embarked in the brig ‘Eliza,’ Captain Gardner, with about ten thousand pounds’ value of goods, for account of myself and Parker, Appleton, and Co. These goods, and another importation, I sold; and, at the end of the year 1811, found myself worth about ten thousand dollars. I went from Philadelphia to North Carolina, where I loaded two vessels with naval-stores for England. From thence I went to Charleston, S.C., and took passage in the ship ‘Ceres,’ Captain Webber, for Liverpool; where I found that an embargo was laid in the United States, which was considered preparatory to war with England.

“ In June, 1812, I was in the House of Commons, listening to the debates of that body; when it was announced that the orders in Council which related to the American ships would be modified or repealed; these orders being supposed to be the

cause of difficulty between the two governments. I at once commenced purchasing goods, and, within one month, had goods valued at thirty thousand pounds on the way, or in readiness to be shipped, to the United States; when information arrived that war had actually been declared by the United-States Government. This intelligence caused me much trouble and anxiety. In August, I embarked for Boston in the ship 'Roxanna.' On my arrival, I found great distress and apprehension among the people on account of the war. When I had closed up my importations, and made a settlement of affairs with N. W. and C. H. Appleton, I thought myself worth sixty thousand dollars. . . . I did not attend to any business of importance during the war.

In January, 1815, Mr. Appleton was married to Mary Ann Cutler,—a lady whose graces of person were equalled by the estimable qualities of her mind and heart, and whose Christian faith contributed as much to the establishment of her husband's religious character as her domestic virtues to the happiness of his home.

"In the spring of 1815, after peace had been made with Great Britain, I laid my plans for future business; and immediately commenced the building of the ships 'Telegraph,' 'Courier,' and 'Minerva.' Before they were finished, I was attacked with the dyspepsy, which was attended with great prostration of strength, nervous irritability, and all sorts of unpleasant feelings. I contended with the disease till the autumn; when, in November, I embarked for Charleston, where I passed the winter, without any improvement in health. The succeeding summer was spent in travelling, but brought no alleviation of my symptoms: on the contrary, my condition was miserable. The irritability increased; but God knows how great suffering produced it, and how difficult it was to be controlled. In the autumn, I sailed with my wife for the Mediterranean. We passed the winter in Sicily; visited Rome,



Paris, and London ; and, towards the close of the year 1817, embarked for Charleston. In April following, we returned to Boston ; my health having been much improved during our long absence.\* This year (1819), I went into business with Messrs. Paige and Chase. Our copartnership continued for six years ; during which I carried on considerable additional business on my own account."

Such is his own simple and summary record of a commercial career, which, when we take into view its humble beginnings and his feeble health, in connection with the sagacity and enterprise displayed and the success accomplished, is almost without a parallel. He had been in Boston but eighteen years, and was not yet forty years old, when he retired from the firm last mentioned ; yet, at that period, no man in the town, of his own age, had made so much money, and not more than two or three were possessed of an equal amount of property.

Having now released himself from the routine of active business, although still retaining an interest in commerce and manufactures, Mr. Appleton found a congenial field of duty and enjoyment in the society and education of his children. To all the other blessings with which Providence had enriched him, was added that of a large and interesting family. Few men have had stronger domestic affections, and few a more attractive home in which to cultivate and gratify them. Though grateful for all the favors of Heaven, there was

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\* As a measure of the increase of the value of real estate in Boston, the following memorandum is of some interest: "In the autumn of 1819, I purchased from Mr. Nathan Appleton the house in Beacon Street, in which I have since lived, for the sum of fourteen thousand dollars."

none which he appreciated so highly, or so often thankfully acknowledged, as this. Not a week, it might almost be said, not a day, passed by, during the latter half of his life, in which some kind reference was not made in his diary to one or another of his children. Every circumstance of the slightest interest connected with their condition is recorded. Every sign of progress in knowledge or virtue, which displayed itself in either of them, is noted with evident delight. Every pleasant family gathering at dinner, or in the evening, is registered, together with the names of all who were present. Every absence or sickness or sorrow is marked with a sympathetic and regretful recognition.

With the exception of an occasional journey for the benefit of his health, and the loss of one of his children, who died in infancy, this rare domestic felicity suffered no serious interruption for many years. At length, the inevitable shadows began to fall, in quick succession, upon his home and his heart. In 1836, his oldest son William, whose health had been for some time declining, died at Schaffhausen, in Switzerland. Possessed of every quality which endears a son to a father, together with those which give promise of a useful and honorable life, and are most flattering to parental pride, the tidings of his death unsealed the deepest fountain of grief. It was the first great affliction which Mr. Appleton had ever experienced, and it touched him in the tenderest point. It was the first severe test which had ever been applied to his faith; and, happily, his faith was adequate to the trial. The notice of the event in his journal, though it betokens his anguish, attests also

his submission. It is so plaintive, that one can hardly read it without a tear; and yet so devout and acquiescent as to excite admiration.

“I had suffered,” he writes, “more than can be described, after hearing of William’s serious sickness, till I heard of the closing scene. During the interval, I was so ill as to be confined to the house. When the sad tidings came, the shock was great. Our friends gave us their sympathy, and did all in their power to alleviate our sorrow; but we found our consolation from other than earthly comforters. I now feel that God has taken him to himself. I think of him with the greatest pleasure. A thousand incidents in his short life appear to me in the most delightful retrospect. His imperfections have disappeared. I can truly say with his uncle, Mr. Nathan Appleton, who was with him in his last hours, ‘He had less of earthly dross than any one I ever knew.’ The recollection of his pious resignation in the approach of death is more valuable to me than any thing in this world. He is gone.”\*

One bond which bound him to earth was now broken. His heart dutifully accepted the sad but providential release, and rose towards heaven. The rupture of other strong and beautiful ties helped its higher ascent. Four children, all of mature age (two sons and two daughters), were successively taken from him. He gave them up, one after another, with increasing submission to God;

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\* Being in Europe not long after William’s death, the writer, who had known him in his youth, out of love and respect to his memory, left his travelling companions and his prescribed route to visit his grave in a churchyard at Schaffhausen. A chaste monument had recently been erected to mark the spot, of which we made a sketch at the time. With a melancholy satisfaction, after so many years, we embrace this opportunity to associate a brief tribute to the son with a memorial of the father. To do so is not so much to assume a privilege of affection as to discharge a biographical duty; for a pure and virtuous child is not only an ornament to the memory of his parents, but an attestation of their worth.

but such repeated bereavements took a deep hold upon his heart, and cast a shade of seriousness over his subsequent life.

The death of his second son Amory, which occurred in 1843, was the heaviest loss of all, and left the deepest impression upon his character. Each of the other children is tenderly commemorated in his journal, and ample justice rendered to their peculiar endearments; but for him he mourns not only as for a son, but a friend. He was, in all respects, after his own heart. Amiable in disposition, sound in judgment, as sagacious in business as his father, and perhaps more prudent, strong in moral principle, and, to crown all, a Christian in faith and practice, he had not only secured his father's unlimited confidence, but such an influence over him as no other person could exert.

“I loved him,” he says, “most dearly. He was the best of sons; of late years, my companion, my friend, my adviser. We took our daily walks together; we went to the house of God in company; together we knelt at the altar; in public and in private, we lifted up our supplications in unison to our Creator. We were more nearly brought together than most fathers and sons. We had entire confidence in each other. He would tell me my faults; and I heard them from him with a better spirit than I should from any other. I was proud of him. God has taken him. May it humble my pride, and teach me to trust to the Saviour! I love to think of his amiable manners, of his kind checks when I spoke too quickly, of his truly religious feelings, and all our intimate and pleasant associations in business, in private intercourse and prayer, and in public worship. His death changed most of my plans of business. It is indeed a sad event to part with such a son; but it

is the will of Heaven, and I would not acknowledge myself so selfish as to wish him back again to contend with this sinful world."

We learn from this extract, that not the death only of his children, but their lives also, exerted an elevating influence upon his character. His chief desire with regard to them was, not that they should bask in the sunshine of prosperity or win the honors of this fleeting life, but that they should establish virtuous characters, and become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. While providing for them the advantages of the best schools and the best masters, that they might receive an education suited to their high social position, it was his especial care, in full sympathy with their excellent mother, to furnish them at home with Christian nurture and admonition. In this highest direction of parental duty, his constant and best efforts were exerted; and here also he reaped the richest reward, not only in the satisfaction of seeing them gathered into the church on earth, and, one after another, going to rest in Christian hope, but also in the corresponding increase of his own faith, by means of his prayers and labors on their behalf, and through sympathy with their spiritual advance. Indeed, the period of his deepest Christian experience commenced before Amory's death, and was evidently connected in part with the influence of his earnest piety.

For many years, Mr. Appleton had been more or less under the sway of those religious principles which were instilled into his mind in infancy at the pastor's fireside in Brookfield, and afterwards diligently fostered by the

prayers and counsels of his faithful mother. He had been always scrupulously observant of the forms of religion, both in public and private; maintaining daily family devotion; never absenting himself from public worship on the sabbath, except from sickness or necessity; and usually attending, in addition, the special and occasional services of the Episcopal Church. All along through his mature life, there are traces of a powerful struggle going on in his heart between his worldly desires and his religious convictions. The former, strongly and abundantly supported by a brilliant array of allurements, though sometimes earnestly resisted, had never been effectually overcome: the latter, re-enforced from above, though occasionally baffled, had often returned to the conflict with renovated vigor. Yet the issue was still in suspense.

At length, in the year 1842, the religious purposes and aspirations of many years seem to have been providentially brought to a head. He devoted himself in earnest to Christian duties. His charitable bestowments were multiplied. He built St. Stephen's Church in this city, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars, and gave five thousand dollars for a Mission Church in China; besides seeking out other methods of dispensing alms, which he seemed to do with a will. He even took counsel with his son Amory as to the propriety of consecrating all his income, beyond his necessary expenses, to the service of Christ and the Church; and seriously meditated the noble purpose to do so. "The thought of having it in my power," he wrote at that period in his diary, "to do something to extend this

religion, which now makes me so happy even in sickness and pain ; with such happiness as I could not find in health, surrounded with gay and pleasant friends, and enriched with all the comforts and luxuries of life, — the thought of having it in my power to lead others to believe in the cross of Christ fills me with grateful delight. May God Almighty strengthen me in well-doing !”

Mr. Appleton's character could not be justly portrayed without a reference to this important crisis in his religious life. However he may have been regarded by the public, and by those who met him occasionally in society and in business, the most marked and interesting feature of his real, his interior life, was the constant struggle to which we have alluded, on the part of the religious element, to obtain the ascendancy over his whole nature ; and that epoch which he himself, and all who knew him best, regarded as the most eventful of his career, was the period in which he assumed a decisive Christian stand. He may not, in all respects and under all circumstances, have afterwards manifested the temper of a Christian ; he may not have wholly overcome the love of the world ; and he certainly did not fully carry into execution the disinterested purpose of his best hours : but, to admit as much as this, what is it but to acknowledge that he was subject to the same infirmities which many good men have had occasion to regret in themselves, and encountered the same hinderances which beset the path of every one who would live a godly life ?

There are few men of business and wealth who more justly deserve the name of Christian, — a name

that we would never incautiously or indiscriminately apply. But we cannot call in question the validity of his title to that best of human distinctions, when we regard his moral purity and integrity; his regular and reverential observance of the outward forms of religion; the number and magnitude of his charitable bestowments; his frequent and liberal contributions to the institutions and enterprises of the Church; his unfeigned trust in God, and submission to the divine will; and his habitual endeavors to live in preparation for death and immortality.

The only qualification which has been made with reference to Mr. Appleton's claim to be commemorated as emphatically a Christian merchant, so far as we are aware, is that he was inordinately devoted to the acquisition of money. The simple fact of his having been a zealous and successful man of business and having accumulated a vast property, may, of itself, be regarded by some as a sufficient ground for such abatement. But there are other facts and considerations, not so immediately patent, which justice requires us to place in the opposite scale. We cannot doubt—in view of the extreme truthfulness for which he was distinguished, and which especially characterizes his private records—that the real purpose of his life is sincerely revealed in sentences like the following, which are found inscribed at intervals in his diary:—

“ My wish is to make religion my first and great object in life. . . . I feel a deep interest in the cause of missions; and my inclination is to give the bulk of my income to religious objects,—not to missionaries only, but to the education of mini-



sters, and the encouragement of all workers for Christ. . . . I feel that the true test of the sincerity of a man's religion is his desire to impart it to others. . . . Most gladly would I increase and multiply my contributions, if I could only find objects that I could entirely approve, and be satisfied that larger bestowments would do good, and not harm. To give to individuals does not always benefit them; and even to give to churches sometimes takes from the energy and efforts of their members. Oh, may God purify my motives, and bless my gifts! . . . I have parted with a large fortune; but I have more satisfaction in what is gone than in what is left."

These are not the utterances of one who makes Mammon his god. And that they are not mere words, is evident from those numerous and sometimes munificent deeds of charity to which we have already referred, amounting in value to nearly half a million of dollars.

We do not deny, what he himself frankly admitted, that he loved the excitement and enterprise of trade, and found a keen satisfaction in success. His talents and training, his tastes and habits, peculiarly disposed and qualified him for a mercantile career. He was made for a merchant; and, as such, it was his instinctive and laudable aspiration to attain to eminence. He could not do this without being diligent in business, strict in his accounts, sagacious in his adventures, and prudent in his investments. He felt that the legitimate result, as well as the test and measure, of genius and energy in his vocation, is the gainful issue of commercial enterprises. Not to make money, would be, in one of his profession and with his capacities, a negligent use of his "five talents," and a forfeiture of that reputation and influence which nature and circumstances had placed

within his reach, and which it was not ignoble to desire. It is true, that a course of life in which the exercise and improvement of one's talents is thus involved with worldly cares, and the pursuit of riches, is accompanied with great hazard both to the moral and religious principles; and very few persons have passed through it with a "conscience void of offence towards God and towards men." But the course itself is one of those which seem to be providentially appointed for men, and the dangers are inseparable from it. That it was the path providentially marked out for himself, Mr. Appleton never doubted. He could not withdraw from it, without doing violence alike to his natural inclinations and his moral judgment. The sole alternative, therefore, was to go forward, and encounter its temptations while discharging its duties. It was a hard battle, and it closed only with his life; but he "fought a good fight, and kept the faith."

Many instances might be adduced to show that the eager prosecution of lucrative enterprises, which was one of Mr. Appleton's characteristics even to the last, and was by many confounded with an inordinate desire for money, was attributable, in a great degree, to other and more honorable motives. His strong and active intellect, stimulated by a nervous temperament, continually impelled him to plan and execute large and difficult enterprises.

"I must be busy," he said. "I don't know how to stop. . . . I love best to do that which is the most difficult. . . . That which others would not undertake pleases me most. . . . If my natural insight enables me to see farther than

most men in certain directions, my nature also compels me to make use of this endowment. . . . I can't help seeing openings for profit, neither can I help availing of them. I pray God to keep me from being avaricious, and proud of my success ; but I cannot bear the shame of falling below my own powers, and being left behind by those who are not my equals."

In accordance with the spirit and principles expressed in such sentences, he wrote as follows, in his diary, during the last few months of his life, while some of his friends were wondering at the interest which he still manifested in financial projects :—

"We are going rapidly into a paper currency. Prices of all kinds of stocks and commodities will materially advance. I cannot avoid taking an interest in speculations, and taking advantage of the rise which I foresee. I am endeavoring to show the younger part of the merchants, that an old merchant of seventy-five has faculties and energy left. *At the same time, I am thinking what I shall do with the profits on the pepper and saltpetre. I shall give part to the public, and part to destitute friends.*"

That such generous intentions were not illusory, the writer, if no one else, can bear witness. Mr. Appleton once consulted him as to the best mode of permanently relieving the necessities of a respectable clergyman, distantly connected with him by marriage, and to whom he had often generously contributed. It was first proposed to raise a sum sufficient for the purpose among a number of wealthy gentlemen to whom the individual in question was known. After some delay in selecting the persons to be applied to, and in other arrangements for starting the subscription, the writer at length frankly expressed his persuasion, that nothing could be done till Mr. Appleton had first signed his own name, together

with the amount that he would give. He paused thoughtfully for a few minutes, and then said, "After all, why should I trouble you to carry about a subscription-paper? My income is very large: I must give a good deal of it somewhere. The only question with me is, where I can bestow it best. What do you think of the propriety of my giving ten thousand dollars to Mr. — in trust for him and his family?" The reply did not, of course, discourage the generous thought.

This interview occurred on the day before Christmas. The next morning, Mr. Appleton rose at an early hour; and eager, as he always was, to carry his purpose into effect, and still more eager, in the nobleness of his nature, to brighten the dawn of that Christian festival for his poor friend, carried a note to his door with his own hand, announcing "good tidings" which filled his heart and his home with joy.

Mr. Appleton's kindness, however, did not exhaust itself in this munificent gift. Having taken hold of the case, he could not leave it till it was completely provided for. To relieve his friend from certain immediate embarrassments, a further sum was necessary. This was easily collected from a small number of benevolent individuals; and, in a few days, he had the satisfaction of setting a burdened heart free from present bondage, and securing a whole household against future want.\*

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\* Since the above was written, we have ascertained that Mr. Appleton, shortly before his death, actually distributed the profits of his speculations in pepper and salt-petre, amounting to about seventy thousand dollars, in the manner referred to in his diary. With his very last breath, he indicated to his family, in scarcely intelligible accents, an object to which he desired to appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars. His request was complied with by his children immediately after his decease.

Much of his devotion to business was in a high degree disinterested. Not only did he seek to acquire property that he might have it in his power to give liberally, both publicly and privately; but some of the most arduous enterprises in which he engaged were to manage the perplexed affairs of his friends; to carry them through periods of great financial peril, and to save them from ruin. It is not too much to say, that, in several well-known instances of this sort, he did what no other man was found willing to attempt, if, indeed, any other would have been able to perform. For such services, he received, in many instances, the unbounded gratitude and respect of those to whom they were rendered; and will be held, by all who have knowledge of them, in honorable remembrance. Referring to this subject, an intimate friend of Mr. Appleton writes as follows:—

“There was one characteristic of his which deserves an honorable mention by the side of any others. That was his pertinacity in carrying out whatever beneficent thing he took in hand, at any cost of time or of money. There are a number of instances in which his social kindness saved the fortunes of his friends from wreck, and many more in which it relieved wants of the minutest sort and in the most effective way; showing a thoughtfulness and sagacity, and a self-identification with the suffering, which was surprising as it was admirable. Everybody, therefore, whom he had occasion to aid by any personal interest, always entertained for him a deep and tender affection, which of itself is ample voucher for the substantial excellence of his character.” \*

After the dissolution of his partnership with Messrs. Paige and Chase in 1826, to which reference has here-

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\* Rev. Alexander H. Vinton, D.D., formerly Rector of St. Paul's, Boston.

tofore been made, Mr. Appleton pursued his business alone, occupying a counting-room in State Street, till 1841; when he admitted as partners his son, John Amory Appleton, and Mr. (now Hon.) Samuel Hooper, under the style of William Appleton and Co. In 1852, several years after the death of his son, Messrs. F. G. Dexter and John H. Reed were received into the firm, which always maintained its high position among the commercial-houses, not only of Boston, but of the whole country.

The high esteem in which Mr. Appleton was held, both for his abilities and experience as a merchant and his excellent qualities as a man, often suggested his name to his fellow-citizens in connection with important offices, which his feeble health and general disinclination to public affairs induced him to decline. Had his taste and bodily strength allowed him, there is no reason to doubt that he might have wielded a much wider influence, and added in numerous directions to his high reputation. All the offices which he was prevailed upon to accept were discharged with characteristic energy and discretion.

In 1832, he was appointed President of the Boston Branch of the Bank of the United States. The conflict between the Government and that institution, which occurred soon after his election, and the financial crisis which ensued, rendered his administration peculiarly difficult, and called for the exercise of the utmost prudence and firmness. He insisted—to use his own language—that his own branch should be allowed to conduct its affairs on “fair and independent princi-

ples ;" and, by the aid of an able Board of Directors, he succeeded in so managing its concerns, that, while the closing of the parent bank and most of its subordinates was attended with much loss, the books of the Boston office showed a favorable balance.

Mr. Appleton was connected with the management of the Massachusetts General Hospital during a quarter of a century, and was president of that institution at the time of his death. He always manifested a lively interest in its benevolent purposes ; and the distinguished success which has attended its operations is attributed by its trustees in no small measure to his prudent counsels and well-directed munificence. According to their grateful testimony, "the fund which he established for the assistance of the curable insane has abounded in rich fruits ; and the buildings bearing his name at Somerville, which were erected at his suggestion and chiefly by his bounty, are honorable monuments both of his sagacity and his benevolence." The character and value of the endowment to which the trustees refer, as well as the motives of Mr. Appleton in making it, are well exhibited in the subjoined correspondence : —

"BOSTON, Jan. 8, 1862.

"MY DEAR SIR, — I send herewith my check for ten thousand dollars, to be added to the fund I commenced many years since, to enable such patients, as would otherwise be compelled to leave imperfectly cured, to remain until a thorough re-establishment of health might be effected.

"The history of the origin of this fund may be interesting. Many years ago, in my early connection with the asylum and with my excellent friend Dr. Bell, my notice was attracted to a mother and daughter, the latter a patient

much improved in health by her treatment while an inmate of the establishment. The mother insisted on her removal ; while the doctor expressed the opinion, that, if she left at that time, she would be obliged to return in a few weeks, while the same length of time spent at the asylum would thoroughly cure her. The mother insisted, however, on the ground that her own means and those of her friends were exhausted. She was pecuniarily unable to continue her child's residence at the hospital, however desirable, and even necessary, it might be. The daughter was a delicate person of some eighteen or twenty years of age, reluctantly, I thought, yielding to the necessity her mother had explained. I asked her if she would like to remain. She said 'she wished to get well, but could not stay.' I offered to pay the necessary expense. A mingled expression appeared to me to overspread her features. Her eye had a softened look of female delicacy. The desire to leave contended with the feeling of duty to remain ; while, over all, the fearful look of wavering reason gradually prevailed. She remained at the asylum ; and, after a few weeks, returned, entirely cured, to her friends ; and, so far as I have been informed, was restored to usefulness in her humble vocation. For several years, I supplied the means to meet such cases as they occurred ; until my success in business enabled me to commence the permanent fund, to which this will be added, and which, with the sum given by myself and the other executors of Mr. Samuel Appleton, now amounts to thirty thousand dollars.

"I have watched with interest and pleasure the benefit resulting from this appropriation. Would that others would see it as I have done ! Their sympathies would be excited, and they would thank God for the ability and opportunity to join in so good a work.

"With much respect, yours sincerely,

"WM. APPLETON.

"Hon. H. B. ROGERS, Chairman Board of Trustees  
Mass. General Hospital,"



“BOSTON, 11th January, 1862.

“HON. WILLIAM APPLETON.

“DEAR SIR, — In the absence of Mr. Rogers, your interesting communication of the 8th instant, enclosing a check for ten thousand dollars, was presented to the trustees of the Hospital, yesterday afternoon, by Mr. Stevenson; and the duty, and, I will add, the pleasure, of acknowledging it, was assigned to me.

“The trustees gratefully accept this renewed expression of your benevolent interest. They have long been impressed by the blessings you have heretofore conferred upon the inmates of the asylum.

“The Appleton Buildings, erected chiefly by your contribution of twenty thousand dollars, afford all the comforts and luxuries of a refined home, greatly increasing the salutary influences of the institution; while the Appleton Fund *for the support of interesting indigent patients*, now enlarged to thirty thousand dollars, twenty thousand of which you have contributed; constantly reminds the trustees of your wisdom and beneficence.

“The income from this fund is the source from which many persons, whose circumstances were as interesting and as pathetic as that to which you refer as suggesting this endowment, have been supported through, perhaps, the deepest of all afflictions, and restored, wholly or in part, to health, usefulness, and peace. Others are now receiving the benefits of this fund, with the hopeful prospect of similar results. For those yet to be called upon to bear this discipline, this fund will be most faithfully cherished.

“The trustees are gratified to observe that you ‘have watched with interest and pleasure the benefit resulting from this appropriation;’ and they most cordially sympathize with you in the earnest wish, ‘that others would see it as you have done. Their sympathies would be excited, and they would thank God for the ability and opportunity to join in so good a work.’

“ You, sir, have the happiness which arises from the will and power to relieve the afflicted ; but there are many made both happy and grateful by the blessings conferred on them by your noble contributions.

“ With great regard, I remain, sir, faithfully yours,

“ W. S. BULLARD.”

Mr. Appleton was chosen a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, not for any literary merit or any peculiar interest in historical studies, but as a representative of a class of men, whose eminent practical talents and achievements, exemplary integrity, influential position, and valuable services to civilization, this Society has always recognized. The names of those who, by augmenting the materials of a nation's prosperity, have helped to furnish and illustrate its history, are justly entitled to be enrolled with theirs who study and record it. Especially should there be a place reserved for such men in an association like this, when, in addition to the claims just referred to, they have contributed of their wealth and influence to the support of literature and art, and earned the honorable title of patrons of good learning.

In November, 1850, Mr. Appleton was elected a representative to Congress from the Suffolk District. He had accepted the nomination with diffidence and reluctance. It had been pressed upon him by his friends, whose estimate of his capabilities for the office was far higher than his own. He frankly expressed to them his fears that he might disappoint their expectations ; and he privately recorded his anxiety as to the effect which the cares of public life, and the political

and social influences of Washington, might have upon his religious character. "I dread the thought of being drawn towards the world, and further from Him to whom my sole confidence and my service are due. I doubt myself. I put all my trust in God, and pray that he will direct and strengthen me."

The event, however, proved the wisdom of those who had selected him for this important trust. He discharged its duties, during the Congress of 1851-2 and that of 1853-4, with eminent ability. Though his voice was never heard in debate, yet he exerted a weighty influence, and most successfully promoted the interests of those whom he represented. His opinion upon the subjects with which he was conversant was always regarded with deference, and not unfrequently taken as authority. Members of both the great political parties asked his advice, assured of obtaining an independent and candid judgment; and even the higher officers of the Government sometimes availed themselves of his prudent counsels. The Committee of Ways and Means, on which he served during the whole period of his Congressional life, were greatly indebted to his experience and wisdom, and often expressed their high appreciation of his services. No man in Washington occupied a higher social position, received and extended a more generous hospitality, served his constituents more usefully or more honorably, or enjoyed a more unsullied reputation.

Mr. Appleton was for the third time chosen to Congress in 1861; having again, in deference to the urgent solicitations of his personal and political friends, waived his general unwillingness to engage in public life,

now increased by the precarious state of his health. He was just entering his seventy-fourth year. His feeble constitution, which had held out so long and endured so many labors only through the force and animation of his indomitable will and by means of a strict and prudent regimen, was evidently beginning to give way. He contemplated with deep solicitude the gloomy aspect of our national affairs, and looked forward with sad foreboding to the awful crisis which was impending. But he would not shrink from the post of duty to which the suffrages of his fellow-citizens had called him in this time of trial. Whatever strength remained to him; whatever wisdom or moderation or conciliatory influence he might be able to contribute,—he would not withhold from the service of his country.

“If I live,” he writes, “and have sufficient strength, I shall meet my responsibilities; but I feel them deeply, as I am old and weak. I am admonished that my days are numbered, and few. When I view the present state of this country,—but yesterday, enjoying greater privileges than any nation of ancient or modern times; to-day, apparently about to abandon those institutions that have raised us, since I was born, from a poor and feeble people of three or four millions to a vigorous and mighty nation of thirty, and to an equal rank with the leading powers of the world; insensibly about to throw ourselves into chaos, without any real cause,—I am dismayed. We must feel that God is displeased with us; that our sins are such as to bring upon us sudden and severe chastisement. We say, continually, ‘God rules the world:’ I see nothing now that can save us from what would appear to be the greatest calamity that could befall our country, except His power to overrule the wills and passions of selfish and wicked men. God preserve us!”

He went to Washington with a heavy heart, but with a high and resolute purpose. His intimate acquaintance with some of the best families of the South, whose kind attentions had been lavished upon him during his frequent visits as an invalid to Charleston, and whose hospitality he had often reciprocated, had established towards them a strong attachment and sympathy. But no personal friendship could draw him aside from his supreme obligation to his country. The oath by which he had bound himself to defend the Constitution had been taken with his whole heart. He loved the Union with intense affection. Every sectional prejudice, whether of a Northern or a Southern leaning, his loyal mind had always rejected. He not only opposed, with all his ability, every measure and every word which tended to division, but sought to allay even the spirit of alienation. So long as there was any hope left of avoiding an open rupture, he neglected no legitimate means within his reach to prevent it. But, when the crisis came, he did not hesitate as to his duty. The very same principles of pure patriotism which had prompted his endeavors to preserve the Union from being severed, now moved him as heartily to sustain the Government, as the only means of restoring it; or, if a restoration should be impossible, as the only barrier and safeguard against utter national ruin. Having adopted this wise policy, he acted upon it with his accustomed energy and consistency. He gave his voice and his money for the vigorous prosecution of the war. Repugnant as it was to his feelings as a patriot and a humane and Christian man, he felt that it had been forced upon the Government; that it had

become a dire necessity ; and that to carry it on energetically to a successful issue was not only the dictate of patriotism, but even of humanity.

Mr. Appleton remained in Washington during the summer session of 1861, till the close of July, when his failing health compelled him to return to Boston. He hoped, at first, that, after a temporary rest, he might be able to resume his seat in Congress ; but the advice of his physicians and his rapidly increasing debility compelled him to resign it. The last days of his public service were spent in diligent attendance upon the meetings of the Committee of Ways and Means, who then had under consideration several measures particularly affecting the mercantile interests of his constituents. His own simple record of these closing labors will give the best impression, not only of their value, but of their extraordinary persistency : —

“ July 14. — Went this morning to Mr. Stevens, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, to obtain his consent to telegraph to Boston and New York that there was no cause of alarm as to their goods in the bonded warehouse. While at the telegraph-office, received a telegram announcing the death of my long-loved friend, Mr. Nathan Appleton. I had said that I would return to Boston on his decease ; but I was told, and believed, that I could not do so without neglecting urgent duties in this place. My duty was evidently here. A bill for raising revenue was before the Committee of Ways and Means. No other merchant was on the committee. I remained, and secured for our shipping-merchants much advantage as to the time when the duties should take effect, and on the warehouse-goods. I feared, if I left, the bill might be changed in the House or Senate. I will not speak of the virtues of my dear departed friend. His character will be fully portrayed by others. Great purity of heart he possessed.

“ July 15. — At Committee and House till five o'clock.

“ 16. — Went to Committee at ten o'clock, and then to the House.

“ 17. — Very busy with tariff-bill. Went to the Treasurer in relation to his project as to wines and spirits. He said they had but imperfect information. Quite satisfied with the view of the Committee whom I represented.

“ 18. — Bill for increasing revenue passed the House. Went to see the Massachusetts troops.

“ 19. — At Committee and House. Much excitement as to our troops in Virginia.

“ 20. — House not in session. At Committee.”

He was confined to his room by sickness on the 21st, 22d, and 23d.

“ July 24. — Went to the House and Committee.

“ 25. — Went to Committee.

“ 26. — Went to Committee.

“ 27. — Quite ill. My physician told me to go home to the North as soon as possible.

“ 28. — Not well. Low spirits.

“ 29. — Went to Committee. Called on the President.

“ 30. — Quite feeble. Went to the Committee-room. Found all present. Stated to them that I found that my health was failing; and asked them, if, in their opinion, there remained any thing to be done for my constituents that would justify my remaining in Washington at the risk of my life. Mr. Stevens was kind enough to compliment me for my usefulness, and said that the work was done: as to the tariff, a Committee of Conference would do all that was now required; that he believed our bill would be sustained. They all took me by the hand, and said they hoped I would return again in December, &c., &c. I was most kindly treated and taken leave of by the Committee; in fact, by all.”

Such was the enviable close of his Congressional career and his public life. That little scene in the Committee-room, which he has so briefly and modestly described, but which others who witnessed it have portrayed in warmer colors, and that more general and miscellaneous leave-taking to which he refers as having been, without exception, kindly, are beautiful and touching tributes alike to the value of his services, the purity of his character, the weight of his influence, and the warmth of his heart. None surely but a most unselfish and upright man could have retired thus from the halls of Congress, and all the associations of the Capitol, without one bitter reflection, one pang of wounded vanity or disappointed ambition, one regret for words spoken, deeds done or duties neglected, one remembrance of injuries inflicted or suffered; with no other feeling in his heart than a tender sense of the universal kindness of others, and a sweet consciousness of his own unqualified good-will towards all.

He came back to Boston exhausted and enfeebled, not to prepare for death,—for that reasonable and religious duty had not been deferred to the uncertainties of the last hour,—but calmly to await it. For many years, admonished by his delicate health, it had been his endeavor “to set his house in order,” and to keep it so. At several periods, he had supposed the end to be at hand; and, at each of them, he had contemplated the event with the faith and composure of a Christian. His worldly affairs were always so honestly managed, and so prudently arranged, as to give him no anxiety in anticipation of his departure. His feelings towards his fel-



low-men, if in any instance disturbed during the day, were habitually pacified before the night. The only point in which he felt the need of a more perfect preparation was in regard to his spiritual aptitude for heaven; and for the full remedy of this insufficiency, inseparable from human imperfection, he earnestly besought the grace of God, and humbly relied upon the merits and intercession of the Redeemer.

He came home to await death; but not in supineness and seclusion. While he had strength to bear his armor, it was against his nature and his principle to lay it down. So long as his faculties were undimmed, he would keep them occupied. Until he must take his final leave of his friends, he felt it to be right to serve and enjoy them.

Day by day, his bodily strength failed; but there was no faltering of his spirit, and no decay of his heart. He kept at work, bravely and cheerfully, till God's time came for his labors to cease. Then, without reluctance, he dropped the instruments of his earthly service, meekly laid himself down, folded his hands upon his breast, fixed all his thoughts upon the crucified Saviour, and fell asleep.\*

The foregoing cursory sketch of Mr. Appleton's life has brought into view some of his peculiar traits; but as they have come into notice with no regard to arrangement, and only in connection with the incidents which suggested them, they have necessarily been presented in a partial and fragmentary manner. Justice to his own

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\* He died at Longwood, near Boston, Saturday, Feb. 15, 1862.

distinguished merits, as well as fidelity to the duty which this Society has laid upon us, require not only a more detailed recognition of his prominent features, but an attempt to group them, as far as possible, into a life-like image of the man.

All his qualities were so positive, and so honestly and independently exercised, that no one who was acquainted with his character would find any difficulty in analyzing it. Indeed, to a degree which is seldom equalled, his character had moulded and stamped itself upon his form. His whole person was singularly expressive; it is not extravagant to say, *impressive*. His capacious forehead betokened a powerful and thoughtful intellect, quick to apprehend, sagacious to analyze, comprehensive to combine, and weighty to influence. His large and fine eye, so bright and keen in pursuit and scrutiny, so deep and often sad in repose, so soft and pleasant in friendly conversation and sympathetic moods, was but a truthful index to his thoughts, — now so intense and penetrating, then so serious and self-arraigning, and again so genial and kind. His pale face, sunken cheeks, and emaciated form, in connection with his quick motions, his impatient gestures, his decided and sometimes abrupt manner, and his concise, conclusive style, gave evidence of that fervid spirit and imperious will which tasked the delicate organization with which they were so unequally allied. With no stateliness nor peculiar grace, he was invested with an air of dignity and refinement which can only emanate from a pure and noble soul. His presence was felt in every company as none can be but that of the most individual and potential characters. His influence

was such as belongs only to those who are born to control. He bore the genuine credentials of a royal nature. He had the instinct and the look of authority, — the eye and the lip of command ; and, better than all, he wore the imperial signet of truth, and the princely robe of integrity. In any station, he would have made his mark ; in any path, he would have risen to distinction. No measure of success could relax his energy, and no amount of difficulty discourage his exertions. Facilities and obstacles were alike incentives. Whatever sagacity could devise, courage adventure, or persistency achieve, he was sure to accomplish.

And yet, with all his independence, his quickness of temper, his pertinacity of will, and his peremptoriness of manner, there were combined tender affections, generous sympathies, liberal sentiments, and a kind and forgiving disposition. Though habitually irritable, he was never vindictive. No residue of resentment outlasted the hasty utterance. If his tongue had inadvertently inflicted a sudden pang, his hand was instantly ready to relieve it. In the long record of forty years of his life, which is before us, with all its allusions to the numerous individuals with whom he had been brought into contact in social, commercial, and political intercourse, there is positively not one uncharitable word, nor even so much as a single unkind insinuation. If there are any reproaches, they are visited upon himself. He never disparaged others, but strove to keep his own heart humble. While earnestly aspiring after the highest honors and rewards which nature or circumstances led him to pursue, he never sought to raise himself by pull-

ing another down. He kept his heart above mean rivalries, and he spurned the tricks of ambition. He would deserve honor, not beg for it; and secure success by merit, not by intrigue. All the prizes which he obtained, of wealth, of mercantile reputation, of social rank, of personal respect and public distinction, he lawfully pursued and fairly won. Nor, when they were attained, were they selfishly enjoyed or arrogantly paraded; but his heart expanded with his gains, and his private and public services were multiplied with his honors.

But, while diligently pursuing, and obtaining, these earthly treasures, his heart was never turned away from the heavenly. While reaping in ample measure the golden harvest of his temporal labors, he never ceased to "have respect unto the recompense of reward." The best part of his life, and the most praiseworthy of his attainments, were only partially seen of men. They recognized, indeed, the purity of his conversation and conduct, his scrupulous fidelity to his engagements, his benevolence, his reverence for things sacred, his punctual observance of the forms of religion, and some of the more costly offerings which he dedicated to Christ and the Church; but there were holier and lovelier things, of which all those conveyed but a partial idea, hidden behind the veil. Having lifted that veil, so far as his diary enables us, with a reverent hand, we have caught glimpses of a secret life, which casts all those outward works and virtues into the shade. We have seen the manifestations of a strong religious faith, a childlike submission, a lively gratitude, a deep humility, a daily hunger and thirst after righteousness, a constant warfare

with the flesh and the world,—traces of a profound Christian experience, a continual growth in grace, and a gradual ripening of the character for heaven.

We have no misgivings in holding up such a life before the young men of New England, as worthy of honor and emulation. In the lengthening roll of those princely merchants whose unsullied integrity has established the commercial credit of Boston, whose munificence has endowed its institutions of learning, charity, and religion, and whose honorable lives have been among its noblest ornaments, the name of William Appleton, in view of the various qualities which exalt his vocation, illustrate the benefactor, approve the Christian, and dignify the man, though it may not be entitled to pre-eminence, deserves no second place.

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[The following letter from one whose intimate acquaintance with Mr. Appleton, as well as his practised and graceful pen, give authority to his words, is a memoir in itself.]

“PHILADELPHIA, January, 1863.

“REV. AND DEAR SIR,

“Your request, that I should furnish you with a few reminiscences of my dear friend William Appleton, has lain too long unanswered. You have about you those who have seen him more intimately in his walk as a Christian, a citizen, and a man of business; and I can hardly hope to add any thing to their contributions. Yet I gladly pay a slight tribute to one whom I had strong reason to love and honor, and who may well be held up before the young as an example.

“I first knew Mr. Appleton in the early part of the year 1826; and, from that time to the day of his death, I saw him as frequently and familiarly as often happens to men engaged in different pursuits, and living most of the time remote from each

other. During five years, at the beginning of our acquaintance, it was my privilege to minister to him in holy things, and I was then his near neighbor and friend. The intimacy then formed has continued with unabated cordiality, and I have at times been an inmate of his family for several weeks. As I stood, in February last, over his cold remains, my memory reproduced most vividly the first occasion on which I saw him, and the impression which the interview of a few hours made upon me. His emaciated figure and pale face, his ample forehead, and eye beaming with kindness, his quick and decided motions, and his spare and somewhat hesitating speech, all told of broken health, of an active and shrewd mind, of a strong but mastered will, of a genial and most benevolent heart. It seemed evident, at once, that he was a man of action rather than of words; and one who, without claiming or even desiring it, would naturally take a large share in the direction of any affairs with which he had more immediate connection. Such he has appeared to me ever since. Of his course in business, I knew little. When he came to his home, the schemes and cares of the counting-room seemed to be laid aside. He gave himself to his guests, his friends, and, above all, to his family. Whatever would promote their happiness or welfare, formed, unconsciously, his great care. All neighborly acts, such as most men and especially men of feeble health and in his situation of life, would scarcely have thought of, were his delight. They were performed so constantly, and with such apparent ease and self-forgetfulness, that you hardly remembered that they were favors. He enjoyed conversation greatly, though not taking a large share in it. His range of information was not great; but his judgment always struck me as singularly correct. There was, on practical questions, a quickness and precision which seemed intuitive, and usually a great absence of prejudice and passion. At one time, I had frequent occasion to consult him; and, though it was on subjects foreign from his accustomed cares and pursuits, his opinions were eminently judicious.

“ You ask me more particularly in regard to his religious history. I am sorry that on this point I cannot give information that is very full or definite. When I was his pastor, he did not profess to be a decidedly Christian man. He had been faithfully instructed by godly parents ; and for his mother, who survived, he cherished a profound reverence. But the cares of the world and the blandishments of society had insensibly shaken his faith in some of those principles of Christianity which formed the stay and solace of his later years, as they had been the staple of his earlier teachings. His mind, when I first knew him, seemed to yearn for the support and satisfaction of a clearer and stronger faith in spiritual realities, but to recoil from the effort and the sacrifices by which it was to be won. The charms of things seen were in evident conflict in his mind with things unseen ; and his intense devotion to business, combined with his deference for those about him, gave advantage to the former. At times, he rebelled against exhibitions of what I regarded as truth ; and I recollect, with deep interest, long conversations which on such occasions I have had with him. His acuteness and strong sense were sometimes more than a match for my crude thoughts ; and I have always felt that the scrutiny to which his active mind subjected my preaching at this time, when I was just beginning my ministry, was no small service to me. His questionings were always kind and respectful : they evinced a mind searching for truth ; though it was sometimes quite obvious that it was more for the satisfaction of a speculative curiosity than for the instruction and edification of his moral nature. At others, his whole soul seemed to brood over the great problems of our higher life ; and I thought, that, during the few years he was my parishioner, there was evident progress in the depth and active power of his religious convictions. I left Boston in the year 1831. Not long after, severe domestic bereavements, the faithful preaching of my successor, and his deep sense of responsibility as a parent, all contributed to fix his purpose for life ; and he became an avowed follower of his Lord.

“I ought to add, that he was, from the beginning, a most liberal supporter of the church (St. Paul’s) which he attended. When I took charge of it, it was burdened with heavy debts. Though at that time he kept no carriage, and indulged in few unnecessary expenses, he boldly assumed the principal burden ; and it was mainly through his generosity and decision that the parish was carried through a very serious crisis. His hand was, at that time, always open to any good call that was made upon his sympathy or public spirit. I can bear most grateful testimony to the considerate and delicate kindness with which he always treated his pastor and his pastor’s family.

“During all the years that I knew him, he exhibited an admirable self-mastery. A great dyspeptic, with a morbid appetite, he was inexorable to all the temptations of the table. With intense native energy, and great fondness for the hazards and successes of trade, he seemed, on system, to restrain himself from becoming entirely engrossed and enslaved. A father, sorely afflicted and bereaved, he never betrayed impatience. When, not many years since, one of the heaviest domestic calamities seemed impending, and after he had received one crushing blow after another, he said to me at an accidental meeting, ‘This seems the knell of my earthly hopes. The past has been bitter ; this exceeds in bitterness. But, much as I have suffered, I feel that I have needed it all ; and, in my prayers to my heavenly Father, my first request is, “Thy will be done.” If more chastening be necessary to subdue my pride, to humble my self-will, to cure my devotion to things earthly, let it come. Him who hath borne such agonies for my sake, and who loves me with a love passing all human affection, I can trust. Not my will, but his.’

“It is said, that, as he grew old, he did not escape entirely that which has been called ‘the vice of old age.’ It has also been intimated, that his religious sensibilities had been somewhat dulled in his later years by contact with political life. Of this I cannot speak with any confidence, not having met him as frequently or as intimately as before. I can only say, that, so



far as I did see or know him through all his advancing age, he seemed to me an earnest, godly man ; fighting — as who of us does not ? — but fighting valiantly and prayerfully against ‘ the world, the flesh, and the devil.’

“ It is now the first day of a new year (1863). Thirty-seven years have nearly passed since first I saw him. During all that time, William Appleton has seemed to me a rare man. As a neighbor and friend, as a citizen and merchant, as a father and husband, he was one of Nature’s noblemen. As he advanced in life, he was enriched and endowed by grace, and became a fountain of temporal and spiritual blessings to many, near and far off. I have seen him (how often !) at his board, surrounded by his large and lovely family, radiant with happiness, giving and receiving nothing but joy. I have seen his children growing up, and then cut down, one after another, when surrounded by the brightest and gayest hopes. His admirable wife — so full of all amenities, and so abundant in works of kindness — I have seen succumbing under the weight of one domestic sorrow after another, and finally resigning herself to death. Himself I have seen, — left alone in the house that for more than forty-five years had been his cherished home, broken in health, burdened with the weight of more than three-score years and ten. I have heard of him, with mind unclouded and spirit serene, making all his preparations deliberately for his last hour, and entering the dark valley with humble but unfaltering trust in his Almighty Redeemer. Could more have been wished for him ? ‘ Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Even so, saith the Spirit ; for they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.’

“ I am, dear sir, yours very truly,

“ ALONZO POTTER.

“ Rev. CHANDLER ROBBINS, D.D.”